UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/698,807	10/31/2003	Aravind Sitaraman	CISCO-7639(032590-219)	2447

78855   7590   04/06/2009
Patent Capital Group
6119 McCommas Blvd
Dallas, TX 75214

EXAMINER
PATEL, CHANDRAHAS B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2416	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
04/06/2009	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _17 February 2009_.
2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.
3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) _1-61_ is/are pending in the application.
    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6)☒ Claim(s) _1-61_ is/are rejected.
7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.
    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:
        1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
        2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
        3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1.   A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in

37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is

eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e)

has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to

37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 2/17/2009 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2.   The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found

in a prior Office action.

3.   Claims 1-5, 11, 12, 18-20, 26-28, 34-36, 42-46, 49, 50, 52-55, 58, 59, 61 are rejected

under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Veeneman et al. (USPN 6,771,650, Herein as

Veeneman).

    Regarding claim 1, Veeneman teaches a method for creating a bundle of soft permanent

virtual circuits (SPVCs) coupling form a source end to a destination end via a communications

network **[Fig. 4]**, comprising: creating an SPVC bundle for the source end **[Col. 3, lines 34-38,**

where bundle of paths are crated by multiple connections] the SPVC bundle comprising a

plurality of member SPVCs **[Fig. 2, 36170]**, each member SPVC comprising a permanent virtual

circuit (PVC) and a switched virtual circuit (SVC) **[Col. 3, lines 34-36]**, each of the member

SPVCs being associated with a respective connection characteristic and coupling to a same

destination **[Fig. 4, bundle of paths going from x to y and each path has a cost associated**

with it], wherein each of the connection characteristics includes a respective quality of service

(QoS) parameter that is maintained as Internet Protocol (IP) packets propagate from the source

end, over the communication network, and to the destination end **[Col. 3, line 64 – Col. 4, line**

13, Fig. 4, costs of links and admin weights are used for QoS parameter and are compared

as IP packets travel through the links]; and transmitting, from the source end to the destination

end, an SPVC setup message containing configuration information of the SPVC bundle **[Col. 4,**

lines 55-64], the configuration information comprising bumping rules for individual member

SPVCs, the bumping rules specifying to which member SPVC traffic should be bumped when a

specific member SPVC fails **[Col 6, lines 42-55, uses different circuits if one of the circuits**

fail].

      Regarding claims 2, 45, 54, Veeneman teaches receiving parameters defining the SPVC

bundle at the source end, the configuration information transmitted to the destination end

corresponding to the parameters **[Col. 4, lines 43-46]**.

      Regarding claim 3, Veeneman teaches automatically creating, at the destination end, in

response to the SPVC setup message, the SPVC bundle for the destination end in accordance

with the configuration information **[Col. 4, lines 55-64]**.

      Regarding claim 4, Veeneman teaches the connection characteristic comprises at least

one of: a traffic parameter **[Col. 3, lines 64-67 – Col. 4, lines 1-2]**.

      Regarding claims 5, 12, 20, 28, 36, 46, 50, 55, 59, Veeneman teaches the configuration

information comprises: bundle-level parameters; and parameters for individual member SPVCs

[Col. 4, lines 24-25].

      Regarding claim 11, Veeneman teaches a method for creating, at a destination network

device, a bundle of soft permanent virtual circuits (SPVCs) coupling form a source network

device to the destination network device via a communications network [**Fig. 4**], comprising:

receiving and decoding an SPVC setup message containing SPVC bundle information for

creating an SPVC bundle coupled from a specified source end [**Col. 4, lines 55-58**], the SPVC

bundle comprising a plurality of member SPVCs [**Fig. 2, 36170**], each of the member SPVC

comprising a permanent virtual circuit (PVC) and a switched virtual circuit (SVC) [**Col. 3, lines

34-36**]; extracting parameters from the SPVC bundle information [**Col. 4, lines 20-22**], the

parameters comprising bumping rules for individual member SPVCs, the bumping rules

specifying to which member SPVC traffic should be bumped when a specific member SPVC

fails [**Col 6, lines 42-55, uses different circuits if one of the circuits fail**]; and creating the

SPVC bundle based on the extracted parameters [**Col. 4, lines 24-25**], each of the member

SPVCs being associated with a respective connection characteristic and coupled from the

specified source end [**Fig. 4, bundle of paths going from x to y and each path has a cost

associated with it**], wherein each of the connection characteristics includes a respective quality

of service (QoS) parameter that is maintained as Internet Protocol (IP) packets propagate from

the source end, over the communication network, and to the destination network device [**Col. 3,

line 64 – Col. 4, line 13, Fig. 4, costs of links and admin weights are used for QoS parameter

and are compared as IP packets travel through the links**].

      Regarding claims 18, 52, 61, Veeneman teaches allocating a PVC connection and an

SVC connection on the destination network device for each member SPVC [**Col. 4, lines 55-59**].

      Regarding claim 19, Veeneman teaches a network device for creating a bundle of soft

permanent virtual circuits (SPVCs) coupling from a source end to a destination end via a

communications network [**Fig. 4**], network device comprising: an interface adapted to receive

commands and parameters to create an SPVC bundle comprising a plurality of member SPVCs

[Fig. 3, 36170, has interface to receive commands, Col. 3, lines 28-36], each of the member

SPVCs comprising a permanent virtual circuit (PVC) and a switched virtual circuit (SVC) **[Col.**

3, lines 34-36]; an SPVC bundle manager coupled to interface, adapted to configure the SPVC

bundle in accordance with the parameters **[Col. 3, lines 38-40]**, each of the member SPVCs

being associated with a respective connection characteristic and coupling to a same destination

[Fig. 4, bundle of paths going from x to y and each path has a cost associated with it],

wherein each of the connection characteristics includes a respective quality of service (QoS)

parameter that is maintained as Internet Protocol (IP) packets propagate from the source end,

over the communication network, and to the destination end **[Col. 3, line 64 – Col. 4, line 13,**

Fig. 4, costs of links and admin weights are used for QoS parameter and are compared as

IP packets travel through the links]; an SPVC manager coupled to SPVC bundle manager,

adapted to create an SPVC bundle setup request and SPVC bundle information based on data

received from SPVC bundle manager **[Col. 3, lines 50-54]**; and a signaling module coupled to

SPVC manager, adapted to encode and transmit an SPVC setup message containing the SPVC

bundle information **[Col. 4, lines 20-26, BWA is the signaling module that send parameters**

containing SPVC bundle information], the bundle information comprising bumping rules for

individual member SPVCs, the bumping rules specifying to which member SPVC traffic should

be bumped when a specific member SPVC fails **[Col 6, lines 42-55, uses different circuits if**

one of the circuits fail].

Regarding claims 26, 34, Veeneman teaches a connection manager coupled to SPVC

bundle manager, adapted to allocate a PVC connection and an SVC connection on network

device for each of the member SPVCs **[Col. 4, lines 55-59]**.

Regarding claim 27, Veeneman teaches a network device for a destination end of a

bundle of soft permanent virtual circuits (SPVCs) coupling form a source end to the destination

end via a communications network **[Fig. 4]**, network device comprising: a signaling module

adapted to receive and decode an SPVC setup message containing SPVC bundle information for

creating an SPVC bundle coupled from a specified source end **[Col. 4, lines 55-58]**, the SPVC

bundle comprising a plurality of member SPVCs **[Fig. 2, 36170]**, each of the member SPVC

comprising a permanent virtual circuit (PVC) and a switched virtual circuit (SVC) **[Col. 3, lines**

34-36], the bundle information comprising bumping rules for individual member SPVCs, the

bumping rules specifying to which member SPVC traffic should be bumped when a specific

member SPVC fails **[Col 6, lines 42-55, uses different circuits if one of the circuits fail]**; and

an SPVC bundle manger adapted to extract parameters from the SPVC bundle information **[Col.**

4, lines 20-22]; and to create the SPVC bundle, each of the member SPVCs being associated

with a respective connection characteristic and coupled from the specified source end **[Fig. 4,**

bundle of paths going from x to y and each path has a cost associated with it], wherein each

of the connection characteristics includes a respective quality of service (QoS) parameter that is

maintained as Internet Protocol (IP) packets propagate from the source end, over the

communication network, and to the destination end **[Col. 3, line 64 – Col. 4, line 13, Fig. 4,**

costs of links and admin weights are used for QoS parameter and are compared as IP

packets travel through the links]

   Regarding claim 35, Veeneman teaches a system for creating a bundle of soft permanent

virtual circuits (SPVCs) coupling form a source end to a destination end via a communications

network **[Fig. 4]** the system comprising: a source network device **[Fig. 4, x]**, comprising: an

interface adapted to receive commands and parameters to create an SPVC bundle comprising a

plurality of member SPVCs **[Fig. 3, 36170, has interface to receive commands, Col. 3, lines**

28-36], each of the member SPVCs comprising a permanent virtual circuit (PVC) and a switched

virtual circuit (SVC) **[Col. 3, lines 34-36]**, the parameters comprising bumping rules for

individual member SPVCs, the bumping rules specifying to which member SPVC traffic should

be bumped when a specific member SPVC fails **[Col 6, lines 42-55, uses different circuits if**

one of the circuits fail]; a first SPVC bundle manager coupled to interface, adapted to configure

the SPVC bundle to a specified destination bundle based on the parameters **[Col. 3, lines 38-40]**,

each of the member SPVCs being associated with a respective connection characteristic and

coupling to a same destination **[Fig. 4, bundle of paths going from x to y and each path has a**

cost associated with it]; a first SPVC manager coupled to first SPVC bundle manager, adapted

to create an SPVC bundle setup request and SPVC bundle information based on data received

from first SPVC bundle manager **[Col. 3, lines 50-54]**; and a signaling module coupled to SPVC

manager, adapted to encode and transmit an SPVC setup message containing the SPVC bundle

information **[Col. 4, lines 20-26, BWA is the signaling module that send parameters**

containing SPVC bundle information] and a destination network device **[Fig. 4, y]**,

comprising: a second signaling module adapted to receive and decode the SPVC setup message

containing SPVC bundle information **[Col. 4, lines 55-58]**; and a second SPVC bundle manger,

adapted to extract parameters from the SPVC bundle information **[Col. 4, lines 20-22]** to

configure the SPVC bundle and create the member SPVCs for the destination end **[Fig. 4,**

bundle of paths going from x to y], wherein each of the connection characteristics includes a

respective quality of service (QoS) parameter that is maintained as Internet Protocol (IP) packets

propagate from the source end, over the communication network, and to the destination end

[Col. 3, line 64 – Col. 4, line 13, Fig. 4, costs of links and admin weights are used for QoS

parameter and are compared as IP packets travel through the links]

      Regarding claim 42, Veeneman teaches a first connection manager coupled to first

SPVC bundle manager, adapted to allocate a PVC connection and an SVC connection on said

source network device for each member SPVC **[Col. 4, lines 55-59, this connection manager is**

associated with x].

      Regarding claim 43, Veeneman teaches a second connection manager coupled to second

SPVC bundle manager, adapted to allocate a PVC connection and an SVC connection on

destination network device for each member SPVC **[Col. 4, lines 55-59, this connection**

manager is associated with y].

      Regarding claim 44, Veeneman teaches an apparatus for creating a bundle of soft

permanent virtual circuits (SPVCs) coupling form a source end to a destination end via a

communications network **[Fig. 4]**, comprising: means for creating an SPVC bundle for the

source end **[Col. 3, lines 34-38, where bundle of paths are crated by multiple connections]**

the SPVC bundle comprising a plurality of member SPVCs **[Fig. 2, 36170]**, each member SPVC

comprising a permanent virtual circuit (PVC) and a switched virtual circuit (SVC) **[Col. 3, lines**

34-36], each of the member SPVCs being associated with a respective connection characteristic

and coupling to a same destination **[Fig. 4, bundle of paths going from x to y and each path**

has a cost associated with it], wherein each of the connection characteristics includes a

respective quality of service (QoS) parameter that is maintained as Internet Protocol (IP) packets

propagate from the source end, over the communication network, and to the destination end

[Col. 3, line 64 – Col. 4, line 13, Fig. 4, costs of links and admin weights are used for QoS

parameter and are compared as IP packets travel through the links]; and means for

transmitting, from the source end to the destination end, an SPVC setup message containing

configuration information of the SPVC bundle **[Col. 4, lines 55-64]**, the configuration

information comprising bumping rules for individual member SPVCs, the bumping rules

specifying to which member SPVC traffic should be bumped when a specific member SPVC

fails **[Col 6, lines 42-55, uses different circuits if one of the circuits fail]**.

  Regarding claim 49, Veeneman teaches an apparatus for creating, at a destination

network device, a bundle of soft permanent virtual circuits (SPVCs) coupling form a source

network device to the destination network device via a communications network **[Fig. 4]**,

comprising: means for receiving and decoding an SPVC setup message containing SPVC bundle

information for creating an SPVC bundle coupled from a specified source end **[Col. 4, lines 55-**

58], the SPVC bundle comprising a plurality of member SPVCs **[Fig. 2, 36170]**, each of the

member SPVC comprising a permanent virtual circuit (PVC) and a switched virtual circuit

(SVC) **[Col. 3, lines 34-36]**; means for extracting parameters from the SPVC bundle information

[Col. 4, lines 20-22], the parameters comprising bumping rules for individual member SPVCs,

the bumping rules specifying to which member SPVC traffic should be bumped when a specific

member SPVC fails **[Col 6, lines 42-55, uses different circuits if one of the circuits fail]**; and

means for creating the SPVC bundle based on the extracted parameters **[Col. 4, lines 24-25]**,

each of the member SPVCs being associated with a respective connection characteristic and

coupled from the specified source end **[Fig. 4, bundle of paths going from x to y and each**

path has a cost associated with it], wherein each of the connection characteristics includes a

respective quality of service (QoS) parameter that is maintained as Internet Protocol (IP) packets

propagate from the source end, over the communication network, and to the destination end

[Col. 3, line 64 – Col. 4, line 13, Fig. 4, costs of links and admin weights are used for QoS

parameter and are compared as IP packets travel through the links].

      Regarding claim 53, Veeneman teaches a program storage device readable by a

machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a

method for creating a bundle of soft permanent virtual circuits (SPVCs) coupling form a source

end to a destination end via a communications network **[Col. 2, lines 58-62, switches have**

software to execute the instructions], comprising: creating an SPVC bundle for the source end

[Col. 3, lines 34-38, where bundle of paths are crated by multiple connections] the SPVC

bundle comprising a plurality of member SPVCs **[Fig. 2, 36170]**, each member SPVC

comprising a permanent virtual circuit (PVC) and a switched virtual circuit (SVC) **[Col. 3, lines**

34-36], each of the member SPVCs being associated with a respective connection characteristic

and coupling to a same destination **[Fig. 4, bundle of paths going from x to y and each path**

has a cost associated with it]; and transmitting, from the source end to the destination end, an

SPVC setup message containing configuration information of the SPVC bundle **[Col. 4, lines 55-**

64], the configuration information comprising bumping rules for individual member SPVCs, the

bumping rules specifying to which member SPVC traffic should be bumped when a specific

member SPVC fails **[Col 6, lines 42-55, uses different circuits if one of the circuits fail]**,

wherein each of the connection characteristics includes a respective quality of service (QoS)

parameter that is maintained as Internet Protocol (IP) packets propagate from the source end,

over the communication network, and to the destination end **[Col. 3, line 64 – Col. 4, line 13,**

Fig. 4, costs of links and admin weights are used for QoS parameter and are compared as

IP packets travel through the links].

       Regarding claim 58, Veeneman teaches a program storage device readable by a

machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a

method for creating, at a destination network device, a bundle of soft permanent virtual circuits

(SPVCs) coupling from a source network device to the destination network device via a

communication network, **[Col. 2, lines 58-62, switches have software to execute the**

instructions], comprising: receiving and decoding an SPVC setup message containing SPVC

bundle information for creating an SPVC bundle coupled from a specified source end **[Col. 4,**

lines 55-58], the SPVC bundle comprising a plurality of member SPVCs **[Fig. 2, 36170]**, each of

the member SPVC comprising a permanent virtual circuit (PVC) and a switched virtual circuit

(SVC) **[Col. 3, lines 34-36]**; extracting parameters from the SPVC bundle information **[Col. 4,**

lines 20-22], the parameters comprising bumping rules for individual member SPVCs, the

bumping rules specifying to which member SPVC traffic should be bumped when a specific

member SPVC fails **[Col 6, lines 42-55, uses different circuits if one of the circuits fail]**; and

creating the SPVC bundle based on the extracted parameters **[Col. 4, lines 24-25]**, each of the

member SPVCs being associated with a respective connection characteristic and coupled from

the specified source end **[Fig. 4, bundle of paths going from x to y and each path has a cost**

associated with it], wherein each of the connection characteristics includes a respective quality

of service (QoS) parameter that is maintained as Internet Protocol (IP) packets propagate from

the source end, over the communication network, and to the destination end **[Col. 3, line 64 –**

Col. 4, line 13, Fig. 4, costs of links and admin weights are used for QoS parameter and are

compared as IP packets travel through the links].

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

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4.   Claims 6, 7, 13, 14, 21, 22, 29, 30, 37, 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Veeneman et al. (USPN 6,771,650, Herein as Veeneman) in view of Allan et

al. (USPN 5,946,313, Herein as Allan).

Regarding claims 6, 13, 21, 29, 37, Veeneman teaches a method, a network device, and

a system as discussed in rejection of claims 5, 12, 20, 28, and 36 respectively.

However, Veeneman does not teach the bundle-level parameters comprise: network

service access point (NSAP) address; encapsulation parameters; and address map parameters.

Allan teaches the bundle-level parameters comprise: network service access point

(NSAP) address **[Col. 8, lines 56-58]**; encapsulation parameters **[Col. 8, lines 61-63]**; and

address map parameters **[Col. 7, lines 62-64]**.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention

was made to include NSAP to give a unique identification **[Col. 8, lines 56-58]**; encapsulation

parameter to avoid performing CRC check **[Col. 8, lines 64-67 – Col. 9, lines 1-3]**; address map

parameter so that address could be mapped to destination MAC **[Col. 7, lines 62-64]**.

Regarding claims 7, 14, 22, 30, 38, Veeneman further teaches the parameters for

individual member SPVCs comprise at least one of: traffic parameters; and VPI/VCI values

[Col. 3, lines 64-67 – Col. 4, lines 1-2].

5.   Claims 8, 15, 23, 31, 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Veeneman et al. (USPN 6,771,650) in view of Allan et al. (USPN 5,946,313) as applied to claim

7 above, and further in view of Chang et al. (USPN 7,133,420, Herein as Chang).

        Regarding claims 8, 15, 23, 31, 39, the references teach a method, a network device, and

a system as discussed in rejection of claims 7, 14, 22, 30, and 38 respectively.

        However, the references do not teach the parameters for individual members of SPVCs

comprise **at least one of**: Internet Protocol (IP) precedence levels; and parameters specifying

bumping rules.

        Chang teaches the parameters for individual members of SPVCs comprise **at least one**

of: Internet Protocol (IP) precedence levels; and parameters specifying bumping rules **[Col. 7,**

lines 23-26].

        It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention

was made to have IP precedence level as one of the parameter for indicated quality of service

associated with the connection **[Col. 7, lines 23-26]**.

6.   Claims 9, 16, 24, 32, 40, 47, 56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable

over Veeneman et al. (USPN 6,771,650, Herein as Veeneman) in view of Chang et al. (USPN

7,133,420, Herein as Chang).

        Regarding claims 9, 16, 24, 32, 40, 47, 56, Veeneman teaches a method, a network

device, a system, an apparatus, and a program storage device as discussed in rejection of claims

1, 11, 19, 27, 35, 44, and 53 respectively.

However, Veeneman does not teach associating each of the member SPVCs with a respective IP precedence level.

Chang teaches associating each of the member SPVCs with a respective IP precedence level **[Col. 7, lines 23-26]**.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to associate each of the member SPVCs with a IP precedence level to indicate quality of service associated with the member **[Col. 7, lines 23-26]**.

7.   Claims 10, 17, 25, 33, 41, 48, 51, 57, 60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Veeneman et al. (USPN 6,771,650, Herein as Veeneman) in view of Hamedani et al. (USPN 6,560,242, Herein as Hamedani).

Regarding claims 10, 17, 25, 33, 41, 48, 51, 57, 60, Veeneman teaches a method, a network device, a system, an apparatus and a program storage device as discussed in rejection of claims 1, 11, 19, 27, 35, 44, 49, 53, and 58 respectively.

However, Veeneman does not teach transmitting the SPVC setup message using the Generic Application Transport information element (GAT IE).

Hamedani teaches teach transmitting the SPVC setup message using the Generic Application Transport information element (GAT IE) **[Col. 6, lines 4-6]**.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use GATE IE to transmit setup message so that routers that are not capable of performing various conversions can be supported **[Col. 6, lines 9-17]**.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chandrahas Patel whose telephone number is (571)270-1211. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday 7:30 to 17:00 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ricky Ngo can be reached on 571-272-3139. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ricky Ngo/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit
2416

/Chandrahas Patel/
Examiner, Art Unit 2416